

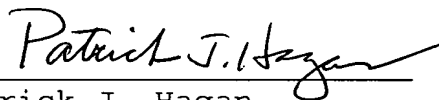
REMARKS

The purpose of this amendment is primarily to eliminate multiple claim dependencies, amend the form of certain claims so as to better conform with current U.S. Patent and Trademark Office practice and present an additional claim directed to a specific embodiment of the invention.

Entry of the present amendment is hereby requested. These claim amendments are supported by the original descriptive text and claims of the international application and do not introduce new matter into the application.

Early and favorable consideration of the application, as now amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick J. Hagan
Reg. No. 27,643
Attorney for Applicant

PJH:cmb